CALFED Management Team Meeting Summary June 17, 1997

A. Floodplain Management Activities

Steve Yaeger gave an overview of activities that are progressing within several reclamation districts. There was discussion regarding land used solely as habitat vs some conjunctive use. By July 2, there should be a better sense of where we are and how effective the outreach program has been. Senator Costa and Assemblymember Machado have legislation to enact a bond act on flood management.

B. Cost-Share Agreement

The cost-share document is still in draft form; the cost-share group has a good conceptual consensus on what the document should accomplish. The document is less ambitious than six months ago in that it doesn't mention stakeholder contributions or other sources of funding. This approach puts more pressure on Assurances and Finance Workgroups.

C. HCP Development

In discussing HCP development, it was suggested that the In Delta portion may resemble a classic HCP while the Out of Delta is more speculative. Actual sites are not known, but areas with potential impacts can be identified. Problems that may arise are service area impacts, and growth inducing impacts. It may be difficult to develop a draft HCP in concert with the draft EIR/S with a target date of fall 1997. Scoping for the HCP should begin in the next couple of months. Incorporating the HCP timeline with CALFED timeline will be discussed at July 2 meeting.

D. Operations Plan Update

There was discussion regarding relaxing agriculture water standards for remainder of July and August to recover export reductions. A general consensus was that there would be a significant amount of stakeholder anxiety in doing this and we shouldn't try to relax the standards as other options are still available. A makeup plan that works all the time should be developed. Not addressing the problem now, however, means that efforts to make up water later in the year may affect spring and winter run salmon. Ops and No Name Groups will develop a revised plan and will report on progress on July 2.

E. EIS/EIR Affected Environment and No-Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative and Affected Environment were split into two packages and sent out to CALFED agencies. Comments were due on first package by June 6; on second package by June 25. Two ad hoc meetings with agency staff were scheduled on this issue. Interior is working on a process for development of a five-year water management plan due in the fall to recommend use of 800,000 af.

F. Water Transfers

Rick Soehren provided an overview of activities related to developing a water transfer strategy. A timeline for modeling information will be available by November. Assurances won't be done this fall, but a range of options should be completed. The framework will be market based. The Transfers Agency Group will fill in the gap from Water Transfers Work Group to keep process moving.

G. Other Issues

Interim South Delta:

The Management Team decided that the Interim South Delta projects and others like it could continue to move forward with planning as long as there was a commitment to reevaluate the project with CALFED at the end of the process. Projects on a separate path should not prejudice CALFED decisions.

December Accord Deliberations:

The Policy Group had determined to work to extend Accord for a year, but nothing has been prepared or signed.

B(2) Discussions:

Interior is developing a five-year management plan to get away from year-by-year Operations battles. Three subgroups are reviewing AFRP, and will report to Policy Group on July 2.

Agenda Items for CALFED Policy Group Meeting on July 2:

- No Action Decision
- Ops Plan Decision
- Cost-Share Agreement
- Floodplain Management
- Accord Extension Issue
- HCP Schedule
- Restoration Coordination: RFP
- Flood Supplemental--Detail
- CALFED Alternatives Narrowing Process